

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND  
FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT MEDICATION.

1 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has reported  
2 that obesity and being overweight are now the second leading  
3 cause of death nationally, with an estimated three hundred  
4 thousand deaths a year attributed to the epidemic; and  
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6 WHEREAS, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases  
7 and conditions, including high blood pressure, heart disease,  
8 certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders,  
9 sleep apnea, and type 2 diabetes; and  
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11 WHEREAS, clinicians increasingly recognize that obesity is  
12 closely linked to genetics and environmental factors; and  
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14 WHEREAS, more than half of Medicare beneficiaries are  
15 treated for five or more chronic conditions per year; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the rate of obesity among Medicare beneficiaries  
18 doubled from 1987 to 2002 and nearly doubled again by 2016, with  
19 Medicare spending on individuals with obesity during that time  
20 rising proportionately to reach \$50 billion in 2014; and  
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22 WHEREAS, on average, a Medicare beneficiary with obesity  
23 costs \$2,018 more than a healthy-weight beneficiary; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1020, introduced in the Regular  
26 Session of 2023, proposes to expand existing health insurance  
27 mandates to cover weight management medication for persons who  
28 are obese or overweight with one or more related comorbidities;  
29 now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
33 that the Department of Health is requested to conduct an impact  
34 assessment report of mandating health insurance coverage for



1 weight management medication as proposed in Senate Bill No.  
2 1020, introduced in the Regular Session of 2023; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
5 further requested to include in its assessment the impact of  
6 section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and  
7 Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on Senate Bill No. 1020, or similar  
8 legislation that includes but is not limited to the additional  
9 cost of any benefits beyond the essential health benefits of  
10 Hawaii's qualified health plans under the PPACA; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
13 also requested to determine how many qualified health plans are  
14 available in Hawaii, including plans offered by health  
15 maintenance organizations; the individual or group enrollment in  
16 these plans; and the actuarial cost of the defrayment to the  
17 State for the reimbursement of weight management medication; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
20 requested to submit a report on its findings and  
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
23 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health and  
27 Insurance Commissioner, who is requested to transmit copies to  
28 each insurer in the State that issues health insurance policies.

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OFFERED BY: 

